



Central AZ HIV Prevention Advocates



**Full Group Meeting September 11, 2007
1366 E. Thomas Rd. Suite 108, Phoenix AZ
Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

Jack Addington, David Aguirre, Bradley Allen, Delono Ashley, Graham Briggs, Lorraine Brown, Todd Evans, Erica Ferguson, Bev Foust, Gal Frenkel, Fran Garrett, Rocksann Harris, Scott Haverstock, Dennis Huff, Barr Jenkins, Mary Leasor, Ty Lopez, Diana Mitchell, Cathy Paddack, Victor Pawlak, Josephine Sbrocca, Brin Scott, Larry Stähli, Teisha Doyle-Shoudis

Excused Absences: Randall Furrow, Kelli Houston, Alan Kittle, Jason Vail Cruz

Order:

Larry Stähli called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM. Larry reviewed housekeeping items. Introductions were made. Barr Jenkins volunteered as Time Monitor and Cathy Paddack volunteered as Process Monitor.

Gecko Grapevine:

Mary Leasor presented the group with a brief description of what the group's purpose is and its role as an advisory body to the AZ Department of Health Services (ADHS) and the statewide planning group, the HIV Prevention Planning Group of AZ (PPGA).

She provided the group with the co-chair contact information:

Mary Leasor	(602) 506-6009	maryleasor@mail.maricopa.gov
Dennis Huff	(602) 279-5262 ext 3201	dhuff@nachci.com
Larry Stähli	(602) 896-9300	ishnatah@mac.com

Members approved the July 10, 2007 minutes.

Cathy Paddack provided a PPGA update for members. The PPGA met on Sept. 10, 2007. Larry Stähli was elected community chair. The PPGA discussed strategies for engaging the rural areas of the state which included creating a rural caucus. ADHS presented its update for CDC for concurrence. Judy Norton also shared a new directive for regional groups. (More details later in the minutes).

Mary gave an update from the Research & Funding committee. The committee hosted a successful capacity building workshop in July. There were 10 participants including a few people from Southern Arizona. The committee received positive feedback from the attendees. The committee plans to offer it again and make it a one day event to allow more people to attend. The committee will also be working with the Southern regional group to create a similar workshop for their region.

Larry provided a Membership Committee update. The committee hosted its first Brown Bag HIV training in Aug. Cathy Paddack presented on HIV Prevention and Substance Abuse. The committee is working on hosting another training in Oct. The topic is to be determined. At its last meeting, the committee approved 5 new member applications. Larry also noted that the co-chairs hosted a new member orientation in Aug. that was well attended. The next Membership Committee meeting is scheduled for Mon. Oct. 1, 2007 from 11:30 AM- 1 PM at the Maricopa County Department of Public Health (4041 N Central Ave, Phoenix) in the 15th floor Prickly Pear room. All members are welcome to attend.

The group welcomed the following new members:

- Fran Garrett
- Rocksann Harris
- Alan Kittle
- Josephine Sbrocca
- Brin Scott

Ryan White Planning Council Report:

Larry Stähli reported that the Planning Council was awarded \$200,000 in funding under the Minority AIDS Initiative. The Council held its priority setting process meeting in Aug. The Council is asking for a 6% increase in funding for next year. The grant application is due to HRSA on Nov. 5, 2007.

The next Planning Council meeting will be held Thurs. Sept. 13, 2007 from 5-6:30 PM at the Area Agency on Aging (1366 E. Thomas Rd) in the 1st floor conference room. All are welcome to attend. For more information contact Planning Council Support at (602) 506-5002.

Hepatitis C Coalition Report:

Victor Pawlak announced that he presented in Stockholm, Sweden to the 100th Conference of the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions in June on “The Importance of Hepatitis C Education and Testing in Alcohol and Drug Programs.” The group congratulated Victor on the accomplishment.

Bev Foust noted that the Coalition is still in the process of reorganizing and is reviewing its bylaws, mission and vision statements. The Coalition’s committees will also begin meeting soon.

The next Hepatitis C Coalition meeting will be on Fri. Oct. 5, 2007 from 11:30 AM- 1 PM at the Area Agency on Aging (1366 E Thomas Rd. Phoenix). For more information, go to <http://www.hepcaz.net>

ADHS Update:

Erica Ferguson discussed a project proposal from the ADHS Office of HIV, STD and Hepatitis C for the regional planning groups (including the Central AZ HIV Prevention Advocates). ADHS will keep the regional groups at level funding for 2008. In addition to holding its meetings and current activities, the group would do formative evaluation around a population in the region that is not being addressed by the currently funded prevention programs. The planning group would select a population and then recommend an intervention to address the gaps in services to that population. ADHS is still discussing the specifics of the project. Any questions can be sent to Mary or Erica and they will forward them to Judy Norton and Kathy Donner. (Also see the attachment A: “2008 Proposal for the Regional Planning Groups (RPGs)” at the end of these minutes).

Erica noted that the integration of the new Office of HIV, STD and Hepatitis C is going well at ADHS. She added that the office has several technical assistance requests in the works. One is to work with ASU (Arizona State University) staff to create an extensive needs assessment that would cover not only the targeted prevention programs, but the community planning groups as well.

ADHS will be offering a free training on social marketing on Tues. Sept. 25, 2007. For more information and to register contact Jim Miller at (602) 364-3610.

Announcements:

- ⓧ Larry announced that the Planning Council will be hosting 2 free consumer education events. “Aprende + Intégrate + Vive” will be a Spanish language only event for HIV+ consumers on Sat. Oct. 6, 2007 from 9 AM- 3:30 PM. Consumers must RSVP to (602) 372-2279. The English

language event “Learn + Link + Live” will be on Sat. Nov. 3, 2007 from 9 AM- 3:30 PM. Consumers must RSVP to (602) 506-5002. Gal Frenkel added that there will be free syphilis testing at the events.

- ✘ Brin Scott announced that TERROS will be hosting a dinner, “Made in the USA,” for Savor Life on Sat. Sept. 29, 2007 from 6-8 PM at 1716 W Van Buren (formerly Bobby Brown’s Café). Dinner tickets are \$20 and also include admission to the Savor Life dessert event that will be held afterwards at the Sandra Day O’ Connor US Courthouse at 401 W. Washington St. Twelve local HIV/AIDS agencies receive the proceeds from the event. The event is for those 21 years and older and attendees must bring a photo ID. To RSVP for the TERROS dinner call (602) 685-6086. For more information on Savor Life go to <http://www.auntritasfoundation.org/savorlife2007.html>
- ✘ Erica announced that there will be a free advocacy training presented by the AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition (ATAC) on Fri. Sept. 28 and Sat. Sept. 29, 2007 at the Courtyard by Marriott Camelback (2101 E. Camelback Rd). For more information or to RSVP, email BCPhoenix@atac-usa.org
- ✘ Erica added that Body Positive and ADHS are planning and hosting the “The 2007 Southwest Conference: Strength of Mind, Health of Body” on Thurs. Nov. 1 and Fri. Nov. 2, 2007 at the Scottsdale Resort and Conference Center. There will also be a reception event in the evening on Wed. Oct. 31, 2007. For registration information and the agenda go to <http://www.bodypositive.org>
- ✘ Rocksann Harris announced that TERROS will begin testing on the first Friday of the month in the evening starting on Oct. 5, 2007 at its location at 1029 N. 1st St. Phoenix. Testing will be from 9 AM- 8:30 PM. For more information call (602) 685-6086.
- ✘ Lorraine Brown announced that the Maricopa Integrated Health System (MIHS) Community Strength Project has changed the look of its website (<http://www.mihs.org/ryanwhite>). The program is also collecting nominations for its 3rd Annual Community Strength Project Award. Nominees should be an HIV+ woman, child or youth (or family member) who has provided outstanding services to people living with HIV/AIDS. For more information call Lorraine at (602) 344-2627 or email her at Lorraine.Brown@hcs.maricopa.gov
- ✘ Teisha Doyle announced that the Maricopa County Department of Public Health HIV Counseling & Testing program will now test for Hep C only. For more information contact (602) 506-2934.
- ✘ Scott Haverstock announced that Body Positive has a new President and CEO- Carol Poore. Michelle Barker will be leaving Body Positive and has accepted a position with Walgreens. The organization has hired several new staff members and the staff is now very diverse.
- ✘ Fran Garrett announced that AAHHERC will be opening an emergency shelter named Harmony House. The shelter will provide housing and other supportive services to 17 women including those who are HIV+, victims of domestic violence, and are re-entering the community from prison. There will be a “Girls Night Out” fundraiser event on Thurs. Oct. 4, 2007 at Dolce Salon & Spa at Arrowhead. For more information call (484) 515-1064 or go to www.girls-night-out.org
- ✘ David Aguirre noted that National Latino HIV Awareness Day is Oct. 15, 2007. He asked agencies to let him know what activities they were planning for the day so Concilio Latino de Salud can collaborate. Contact David at (602) 455-9572.

Pinal County Update Presentation:

Graham Briggs the Infectious Disease and Epidemiology Administrator at the Pinal County Division of Public Health presented to the group on the current epidemiological data for Pinal County and discussed trends in the County, including population growth.

He noted that Pinal County has implemented a health district so the Division of Public Health receives funding from a percentage of county sales tax. This has provided the division with an increased budget. Graham added that he is working to develop the infectious disease investigation program and will be hiring 2 communicable disease investigators with one investigating HIV/AIDS cases.

Graham noted that some challenges to HIV services in Pinal County are high levels of stigma about HIV and a lack of demand for services. Many HIV+ persons go to Phoenix or Tucson for services. Pinal County is open to offering HIV Prevention services if the demand exists. The program historically did blood tests through the state lab for screening and confirmatory tests, but is now using OraSure for preliminary tests. The County is also switching to confidential from anonymous testing.

Discussion included members' suggestions on providing services and locating resources.

Graham can be reached at (520) 866-7337 or graham.briggs@co.pinal.az.us

Small Group Discussions:

Dennis Huff suggested tabling the small group discussions on collaboration with the Hep C Coalition and the Prevention fairs until the next meeting due to time constraints. Members agreed.

Meeting Adjourned:

Dennis adjourned the meeting at 7:20 PM. **The next full group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2007 from 5:30-7:30 PM at the Area Agency on Aging at 1366 E. Thomas Rd, Phoenix in the 1st floor conference room.** Please contact Mary for more information at (602) 506-6009.

Minutes prepared by Mary Leasor, MSW, Central AZ HIV Prevention Advocates Coordinator.

Attachment A: *2008 proposal for the Regional Planning Groups (RPGs)*
From the ADHS Office of HIV, STD and Hepatitis C

Please also note that this new activity maintains the Regional Planning Groups in their current format through the end of 2008. As we have discussed at both PPGA and at regional meetings, all planning is contingent upon continued funding and ADHS approval. As 2008 progresses we can all expect input from ADHS on how Community Planning and regional input will be configured in the future.

For calendar year 2008 each RPG will:

- Identify an HIV prevention need in their region of the state and a proposal for how that need could be addressed
- By end of year, have completed a formative evaluation process (in other words, to the process of planning for and creating programming) and full proposal outlining the target population, prevention format (DEBI/EBI) to be used, and funding necessary to implement a program
- The scope of this proposed intervention should be scaled to meet a specific regional need; what, for example, would be within a local agency's capacity?
- Continue to meet per their chosen regional schedules and at current funding levels, conducting steps of this project during the full group meetings and/or in committee or work group settings
- If this all looks familiar to those of you with some years of CPG membership, it should...essentially this project means conducting a much-condensed planning process but with your group in the role of proposing the finished product and ensuring that the need you identify will be chosen and addressed

Funding:

- Each RPG will use existing funding to complete this planning project while also continuing with meetings and other projects as needed; if included as the main focus of group or committee meetings this should not add an additional burden to group process
- 2008 will be a planning process for new programming and identification of the level of funding needed to meet an identified need; the RPG **is not** expected to actually conduct the programming but rather is asked to describe what it would cost and what funding source(s) could be used
- NOTE again that all plans are contingent upon CDC and ADHS funding availability and approval and will be reviewed at close of 2008
- ADHS will be available to work with each region on an as-needed basis; for example, should a region complete their plan prior to year end there may be options for moving forward on an adjusted schedule

Logistics:

- To be set within each group; planning discussions and activities may be undertaken by the full membership, committee(s) or identified work group(s)
- The PPGA, as the official Community Planning Group, will continue unchanged
- Plan should identify an existing DEBI/EBI to be used

Support:

- The RPGs will operate with the resources of ADHS and the PPGA membership at their disposal for input or technical assistance
- ADHS will provide training specific to the process of formative evaluation
- ADHS will set a framework and collaborate with the regional staff person to ensure ongoing assistance

Identified Need:

- Should not overlap directly with the programs funded in our current funding cycle
- May or may not include or overlap with the PPGA priority populations; if a new group or a more narrowly defined group is chosen it should reflect work previously done in the region (for example, it may be a group that was identified and submitted to the PPGA but did not “make the cut”)

This plan launches Arizona into new territory for our HIV Community Planning partners across the state. As the national trend from CDC moves us towards ever more “streamlined” processes we at ADHS are moving in innovative ways to honor the expertise in our communities and maximize the dollars we can direct to meet the varied HIV prevention needs in our regions.